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JC14 Rec'd PCT/PTO 07 JUL 2005

IN THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)

Mail Stop PCT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This preliminary amendment is provided for the U.S. national stage filing under 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) of PCT application serial number PCT/US2004/000196, filed on January 6, 2004, the U.S. national stage application being filed concurrently herewith. The examiner is requested to enter the following amendments to the claims, solely for the purpose of reducing excess claim fees due upon filing, prior to examination on the merits. An amendment to the specification for the purpose of providing updated priority information is also requested.

It is believed that no fees are due for the amendment. However, should any fees be deemed due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 06-0029.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.